

Hardware Highlights



ANSI/BHMA A156.29-2012 American National Standard for Exit Locks, Exit Alarms, Alarms for Exit Devices

Standard ANSI/BHMA A156.2-2011 establishes requirements for exit locks, exit alarms, and alarms for exit devices and includes operational and finish tests. For further information, consult the full standard, ANSI/BHMA A156.29 for Exit Locks, Exit Alarms, and Alarms for Exit Devices.

BHMA has created this series of *Hardware Highlights* to provide useful, accessible information about builders hardware for anyone with an interest in devices that hang, control, secure, and trim the doors. BHMA is the trade association which represents almost all of the North American manufacturers of builders hardware. One of its main activities since 1983 has been the development and maintenance of ANSI-approved standards for 35 separate product categories.

Product Performance: Purchasers of exit locks, exit alarms, and alarms for exit devices certified to A156.29 (<http://buildershardware.com/cpd>) can be assured products will perform to their expectations.

Below are an explanation and some examples of the evaluations conducted for certification:

EXIT LOCKS	ALARMS	APPEARANCE
Exit locks are subjected to tests for operation (no greater than 15 pounds force required), durability (100,000 cycles), emergency operation (to overcome a 20 pound force), key cylinder operation, and an outside pull.	Alarms are confirmed to be suitable for their rigorous commercial applications through a set of tests including cycling, slamming, and electrical immunity compliance through three levels of IEC 61000 testing.	An additional duty of builders hardware is to be aesthetically attractive and stay that way. Resistance to corrosion, chemicals, abrasion, and sunlight are all considered in an array of finish tests, providing confidence in the architectural metals and coatings.

Building Codes Builders hardware provides several attributes that are essential to building safety and performance, including egress and fire protection. BHMA locksets are designed to comply with all applicable requirements. For example, hardware for fire doors is evaluated and listed to UL 10C by an accredited third-party testing laboratory.

Sustainability Exit locks and alarms contribute to building sustainability through their verified durability, as well as material characteristics such as recycled content and recyclability. The reliable closing and sealing of openings can also contribute to energy conservation. BHMA has developed Product Category Rules, which will further define sustainability requirements and guide life cycle assessments and environmental performance declarations.

Type Numbers: Another significant contribution of standards for product specification is a numbering system for lock function. Please consult A156.29 for the full list; examples are provided here:

Exit Lock E0421

For out swinging single doors. Surface applied. Activated by arm, push plate or paddle assembly. Outside key control furnished when specified. Includes powered sounding device when set by inside key, sounds when door is opened. Has dead bolt or latch bolt with either surface or mortise strike. Furnished with a silent alarm indicated at remote panel in a low voltage system if specified.

Exit Alarm E0411

Armed and disarmed by an inside control key. Allows authorized entry or exit by means of an on and off key switch or electronic circuitry. When armed, unauthorized use activates powered sounding device. If specified it shall 1) be connected to a remote indicating panel, or 2) be mounted separate from the door and activated by a door movement switch, or 3) be furnished with an outside control key, or 4) rearm automatically after authorized use.

To purchase a copy of any BHMA Standard, go to www.buildershardware.com or call 800-699-9277.
This document is not a substitute for the full standard. Refer to the entire standard for full information.